

THE PEACE MISSION.

Special Report of President Lincoln to Congress on the Hampton Roads Conference.

All the Facts, Letters and Telegrams on the Subject.

SHARP PRACTICE OF THE REBEL AGENTS.

How They Smuggled Themselves Through Our Lines.

MR. LINCOLN SOUND ON THE MISSION.

THE PRESIDENT'S THREE POINTS.

Admission of the Rebel Agents in Favor of Reunion.

MR. SEWARD'S MEMORANDA.

His Circular Letter to Our Minister in London.

ADDITIONAL REBEL ACCOUNTS.

JEFF. DAVIS ON PEACE.

Another and Fuller Report of His Speech.

President Lincoln's Account of the Peace Mission.

THE HONORABLE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In response to your resolution of the 8th inst., requesting information in relation to a conference recently held in Hampton Roads, I have the honor to state, that on the day of the date I gave Francis P. Blair, Sr., a card, written as follows, to wit:

After the bearer, F. P. Blair, Sr., to pass my lines, go South and return.

DECEMBER 23, 1864.

That at the time I was informed that Mr. Blair sought the card as a means of getting to Richmond, Virginia; but he was given no authority to speak or act for the government, nor was I informed of anything he would say or do on his own account or otherwise. Mr. Blair told me that he had been to Richmond, and had seen Mr. Jefferson Davis, and he (Mr. Blair) at the same time left with me a manuscript letter, as follows, to wit:

Mr. Blair, Esq.:

I have deemed it proper, and probably desirable, to give you in this form the substance of the remarks made by me to be repeated by you to President Lincoln, Esq., &c., &c.

I have no disposition to find obstacles in form, and am willing now, as heretofore, to enter into negotiations for the restoration of peace.

I am ready to send a commission whenever I have reason to suppose it will be received, or to receive a commission if the United States government shall choose to send one.

Notwithstanding the rejection of our former offers, I would, if you could promise that a commissioner, minister or other agent would be received, appoint one immediately, and renew the effort to enter into a conference with a view to secure peace to the two countries.

Yours, &c.

Afterwards, with the view that it should be shown to Mr. Davis, I wrote and delivered to Mr. Blair a letter as follows, to wit:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1865.

F. P. Blair, Esq.:

See—You having shown me Mr. Davis' letter to you of the 12th inst., you may say to him that I have constantly been, am now, and shall continue ready to receive any agent whom he or any other influential person now residing in the national authority may informally send me with a view of securing peace to the people of our common country. Yours, &c.

Afterwards Mr. Blair dictated for and authorized me to make an entry on the back of my retained copy of the letter last above recited, which is as follows:

January 29, 1865.

To-day Mr. Blair tells me that on the 21st inst. he delivered to Mr. Davis the original, of which the within is a copy, and left it with him, at the time of delivering Mr. Davis read it over twice in Mr. Blair's presence, at the close of which he (Mr. Blair) remarked that the part about our common country related to the part of Mr. Davis' letter about the two countries, to which Mr. Davis replied that he understood it.

Afterwards the Secretary of War placed in my hands the following telegram, endorsed by him, as appears:

OFFICE UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

[Cipher.]

The following telegrams were received at Washington, January 29, 1865:

FROM HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE JAMES, Jan. 29—6:30 P. M.

Major General B. C. Ozan, Headquarters of the Army of the James.

The following dispatch is forwarded to you for your action. Since I have no knowledge of General Grant's having had any understanding of this I refer the matter to you as the ranking officer present in the two armies.

JOHN G. PARKER, Major General Commanding, FROM HEADQUARTERS, NINTH ARMY CORPS, Jan. 29—4 P. M.

Major General JOHN G. PARKER, Headquarters, Army of the Potomac.

Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter and J. A. Campbell desire to cross my lines, in accordance with an understanding claimed to exist with Lieutenant General Grant, on their way to Washington as peace commissioners. Shall they be admitted? They desire an early answer, so as to come through immediately. They would like to reach City Point to-night if they can. If they cannot do this they would like to come through at ten A. M. to-morrow morning.

A. B. WILSON, Major Commanding Ninth Corps. Respectfully referred to the President for such instructions as he may be pleased to give.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

ing by General Grant to allow any person to come within his lines as commissioners of any sort. You will therefore allow no one to come into your lines under such character or profession until you receive the President's instructions, to whom your telegrams will be submitted for his direction.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Sent in cipher at two A. M.

Afterwards, by my directions, the Secretary of War telegraphed General Grant as follows, to wit:

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30, 1864.

By direction of the President, you are instructed to inform the three gentlemen—Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell—that a messenger will be dispatched to them, at or near where they now are, without unnecessary delay.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Afterwards I prepared and put into the hands of Major Thomas T. Eckert the following instructions and message:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1865.

Major T. T. Eckert:

See—You will proceed, with the documents placed in your hands, and on reaching General Grant will deliver him the letter addressed him by the Secretary of War. Then, by General Grant's assistance, procure an interview with Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, or any of them. Deliver to him or them the paper on which your own letter is written. Note on the copy which you retain the time of delivery and to whom delivered. Receive their answer in writing, waiting a reasonable time for it, and which, if it contains their decision to come through without further conditions, will be your warrant to ask General Grant to pass them through as directed in the letter of the Secretary of War. If by their answer they decline to come, or propose other terms, do not have them passed through; and this being your whole duty, return and report to me.

Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN.

Messrs. ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, J. A. CAMPBELL and R. M. T. HUNTER.

Gentlemen—I am instructed by the President of the United States to place this paper in your hands, with the information that if you pass through the United States military lines, it will be understood that you do so for the purpose of an informal conference on the basis of that letter, a copy of which is on the reverse side of this sheet, and that if you choose to pass on such understanding, and to notify me in writing, I will procure the Commanding General to pass you through the lines and to Fort Monroe, under such military precautions as he may deem prudent, and at which place you will be met in due time by some person or persons for the purpose of such informal conference; and, further, that you shall have protection, safe conduct and safe return, in all events.

THOS. T. ECKERT, Major and Aid-de-Camp.

CITY POINT, Va., Feb. 1, 1865.

F. P. Blair, Esq.:

See—You having shown me Mr. Davis' letter to you of the 12th inst., you may say to him that I have constantly been, am now, and shall continue ready to receive any agent whom he or any other influential person now residing in the national authority may informally send me with a view of securing peace to the people of our common country. Yours, &c.

A. LINCOLN.

Afterwards, before Mr. F. Blair, Sr., to pass my lines, go South and return.

DECEMBER 23, 1864.

That at the time I was informed that Mr. Blair sought the card as a means of getting to Richmond, Virginia; but he was given no authority to speak or act for the government, nor was I informed of anything he would say or do on his own account or otherwise. Mr. Blair told me that he had been to Richmond, and had seen Mr. Jefferson Davis, and he (Mr. Blair) at the same time left with me a manuscript letter, as follows, to wit:

Mr. Blair, Esq.:

I have deemed it proper, and probably desirable, to give you in this form the substance of the remarks made by me to be repeated by you to President Lincoln, Esq., &c., &c.

I have no disposition to find obstacles in form, and am willing now, as heretofore, to enter into negotiations for the restoration of peace.

I am ready to send a commission whenever I have reason to suppose it will be received, or to receive a commission if the United States government shall choose to send one.

Notwithstanding the rejection of our former offers, I would, if you could promise that a commissioner, minister or other agent would be received, appoint one immediately, and renew the effort to enter into a conference with a view to secure peace to the two countries.

Yours, &c.

Afterwards, with the view that it should be shown to Mr. Davis, I wrote and delivered to Mr. Blair a letter as follows, to wit:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1865.

F. P. Blair, Esq.:

See—You having shown me Mr. Davis' letter to you of the 12th inst., you may say to him that I have constantly been, am now, and shall continue ready to receive any agent whom he or any other influential person now residing in the national authority may informally send me with a view of securing peace to the people of our common country. Yours, &c.

Afterwards Mr. Blair dictated for and authorized me to make an entry on the back of my retained copy of the letter last above recited, which is as follows:

January 29, 1865.

To-day Mr. Blair tells me that on the 21st inst. he delivered to Mr. Davis the original, of which the within is a copy, and left it with him, at the time of delivering Mr. Davis read it over twice in Mr. Blair's presence, at the close of which he (Mr. Blair) remarked that the part about our common country related to the part of Mr. Davis' letter about the two countries, to which Mr. Davis replied that he understood it.

Afterwards the Secretary of War placed in my hands the following telegram, endorsed by him, as appears:

OFFICE UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

[Cipher.]

The following telegrams were received at Washington, January 29, 1865:

FROM HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE JAMES, Jan. 29—6:30 P. M.

Major General B. C. Ozan, Headquarters of the Army of the James.

The following dispatch is forwarded to you for your action. Since I have no knowledge of General Grant's having had any understanding of this I refer the matter to you as the ranking officer present in the two armies.

JOHN G. PARKER, Major General Commanding, FROM HEADQUARTERS, NINTH ARMY CORPS, Jan. 29—4 P. M.

Major General JOHN G. PARKER, Headquarters, Army of the Potomac.

Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter and J. A. Campbell desire to cross my lines, in accordance with an understanding claimed to exist with Lieutenant General Grant, on their way to Washington as peace commissioners. Shall they be admitted? They desire an early answer, so as to come through immediately. They would like to reach City Point to-night if they can. If they cannot do this they would like to come through at ten A. M. to-morrow morning.

A. B. WILSON, Major Commanding Ninth Corps. Respectfully referred to the President for such instructions as he may be pleased to give.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

at half-past two P. M., Feb. 1, 1865, from City Point, Va., Feb. 1, half-past twelve P. M., 1865.

His Excellency A. LINCOLN, President of the United States.

Your dispatch received. There will be no armistice in consequence of the presence of Mr. Stephens and others within our lines. The troops are kept in readiness to move at the shortest notice, if occasion should justify it.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

To notify Major Eckert that the Secretary of State would be at Fort Monroe, and to put them in communication, the following dispatch was sent:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1865.

Major T. T. Eckert, care of General Grant, City Point, Va.:

Call at Fort Monroe, and put yourself under direction of Mr. E., whom you will find there.

A. LINCOLN.

On the morning of the 3d inst. the following telegrams were received by me respectively from the Secretary of State and Major Eckert:

FOURTEEN MONROE, Va., Feb. 1—11:30 P. M.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Arrived here this evening. Richmond party not here. I remain here.

W. H. SEWARD.

CITY POINT, Va., Feb. 1—10 P. M.

His Excellency A. LINCOLN, President of the United States.

I have the honor to report the delivery of your communication and my letter at quarter past six this afternoon, to which I received a reply at six P. M., but not satisfactory. At eight P. M. the following note, addressed to General Grant, was received:

CITY POINT, Va., Feb. 1, 1865.

To Lieutenant General Grant:

See—We desire to go to Washington City to confer informally with the President personally on reference to the matters mentioned in his letter to Mr. Blair of the 18th of January ultimo. Without any personal compromise on any question in the letter, we have the permission to do so from the authorities at Richmond. Very respectfully, yours,

ALEX. H. STEPHENS, R. M. T. HUNTER, J. A. CAMPBELL.

At half-past nine P. M. I notified them that they could not proceed further, unless they complied with the terms expressed in my letter. The point of meeting designated in the above note would not, in my opinion, be insisted upon. I think Fort Monroe would be acceptable. Having complied with my instructions, I will return to Washington to-morrow unless otherwise ordered.

THOMAS T. ECKERT, Major, &c.

On reading this dispatch of Major Eckert, I was about to recall him and the Secretary of State, when the following telegram of General Grant to the Secretary of War was shown me:

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

[Cipher.]

The following telegram, received at Washington thirty-five minutes past four o'clock A. M., February 2, 1865, from City Point, Va., February 1, half-past ten P. M., 1865:

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Now that the interview between Major Eckert, under his written instructions, and Mr. Stephens and party, has ended, I will state confidentially, but not officially, to become a matter of record, that I am convinced, upon conversation with Messrs. Stephens and Hunter, that their intentions are good and their desire sincere to restore peace and union. I have not felt myself at liberty to express even views of my own or to account for my reticence. This has placed me in an awkward position, which I could have avoided by not seeing them in the first instance. I fear now their going back, without any expression to any one in authority, will have a bad influence. At the same time, I recognize the difficulties in the way of receiving these informal commissioners at this time, and I do not know what to recommend. I am sorry, however, that Mr. Lincoln cannot have an interview with the two named in this dispatch, if not all three now within our lines. Their letter to me was all that the President's instructions contemplated to secure their safe conduct if they had used the same language to Major Eckert.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

This dispatch of General Grant changed my purpose, and accordingly I telegraphed him and the Secretary of State as follows:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 1865.

Lieutenant General GRANT, City Point, Va.:

Say to the gentlemen that I will meet them personally at Fort Monroe as soon as I can get there.

A. LINCOLN.

Sent in cipher at nine o'clock A. M.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 1865.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State, Fort Monroe, Va.

Induced by a dispatch from General Grant, I join you at Fort Monroe as soon as I can come.

A. LINCOLN.

Sent in cipher at nine o'clock A. M.

Before starting, the following dispatch was shown me. I proceeded, nevertheless:

OFFICE UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

[Cipher.]

The following telegram received at Washington February 2, 1865, from City Point, Va., nine A. M., February 2, 1865:

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State, Fort Monroe, Va.

The gentlemen here have accepted the proposed terms, and will leave for Fort Monroe at half-past nine A. M.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

sent with the essential principles of self-government and popular rights, upon which our institutions are founded. It is our earnest wish to see, after a free interchange of ideas and information, upon what principles and terms, if any, a just and honorable peace can be established without the further effusion of blood, and to contribute our utmost efforts to accomplish such a result. We think it better to do this in accepting your passport to us than to be understood as committing ourselves to anything, but to carry into this informal conference, the views and feelings above expressed. Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, J. A. CAMPBELL, R. M. T. HUNTER.

Now—the above communication was delivered to me at Fort Monroe at half-past four P. M., February 2, by Lieutenant Colonel Babcock, of General Grant's staff.

THE T. ECKERT, Major and Aid-de-Camp.

On the morning of the 3d inst. the three gentlemen, Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, came aboard of our steamer, and had an interview with the Secretary of State and myself of several hours' duration. No question of preliminaries to the meeting was then made or mentioned. No other person was present, no papers were exchanged or produced, and it was in advance agreed that the conversation was to be informal and verbal merely. On our part the whole substance of the instructions to the Secretary of State, heretofore recited, was stated and insisted upon, and nothing was said inconsistent therewith; while, by the other party, it was not said that in any event or on any condition would they ever consent to reunion; and yet they equally united to declare that they would so consent if they could secure a postponement of that question to the discussion of some other course first, which, as some of them seemed to argue, might or might not lead to reunion, but which course we thought would amount to an indefinite postponement. The conference ended without result.

The foregoing, containing, as is believed, all the information sought, is respectfully submitted.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Feb. 10, 1865.

The following was enclosed in the message sent to the Senate:

MR. SEWARD'S MEMORANDA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1865.

To THE PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate of the 8th inst., requesting the President of the United States, if in his opinion it is not incompatible with the public interests, to furnish to the Senate any information in his possession concerning recent conversations with certain rebels, said to have occurred under Executive sanction, including communications with the rebel Jefferson Davis, and any correspondence relating thereto, has the honor to report that the Senate may properly be referred to a special message of the President bearing upon the subject of the resolution, and transmitted to the House this day. Appended to this report is a copy of the instructions which were addressed to Charles Francis Adams, Esq., Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at London, and which is the only correspondence found in this department touching the subject referred to in the resolution. Respectfully submitted.

WM. H. SEWARD.

MR. SEWARD TO MR. ADAMS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 1865.

See—It is a truism that in times of peace the States are not so much united as in times of war, and that citizens who sympathetically demand negotiations of peace, the advocates of war, after an agitation longer or shorter, generally gain their fearful end, though the war declared is not unfrequently unnecessary and unjust. So peace agitations in time of war ultimately bring about an abandonment of the conflict, sometimes without securing the advantages which were originally expected from the conflict. The agitators for war in time of peace, and for peace in time of war, are not necessarily, or perhaps, ordinarily, unprincipled in their purposes or motives. Results alone determine whether they are wise or unwise. The treaty of peace concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo was secured by an irregular negotiation under the sanction of the government.

Some of the efforts which have been made to bring about negotiations with a view to end our civil war are known to the whole world, because they have employed foreign as well as domestic agents. Others with whom you have had to deal confidentially are known to your self, although they have not publicly transpired. Other efforts have occurred here, which are known only to the persons actually moving them, and to this government. I am now to give for your information an account of an affair of the same general character which recently received much attention here, and which, doubtless, will excite inquiry abroad.

A few days ago, Francis P. Blair, Esq., of Maryland, obtained from the President a simple leave to pass through our lines without definite views known to the government. Mr. Blair visited Richmond, and on his return he showed to the President a letter which Jefferson Davis had written to Mr. Blair, in which Davis wrote that Mr. Blair was at liberty to say to President Lincoln that Davis was now, as he always had been, willing to send commissioners, if assured they would be received, or to receive any that should be sent; that he was not disposed to find obstacles in form; that he would send commissioners to confer with the President with a view to a restoration of peace between the two sections, if he could be assured they would be received. The President therefore, on the 15th of January, addressed a note to Mr. Blair, in which the President, after acknowledging that he had read the note of Mr. Davis, said that he was, in, and all ways should be willing to receive any agents that Mr. Davis, or any other influential man now actually residing in the national authority, might send to confer informally with the President with a view to the restoration of peace to the people of our common country.

Mr. Blair visited Richmond with this letter, and then again came back to Washington.

On the 29th ult. we were advised from the camp of Lieutenant General Grant that Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter and John A. Campbell were applying for leave to pass through the lines to Washington as peace commissioners to confer with the President. They were permitted by the Lieutenant General to come to his headquarters, to await there the decision of the President. Major Eckert was sent down to meet the party from Richmond at General Grant's headquarters. The Major was directed to deliver to them a copy of the President's letter to Mr. Blair, with a note to be addressed to them, and signed by the Major, in which they were directly informed that they would be allowed to pass our lines if understood as coming for an informal conference upon the basis of the aforementioned letter of the 15th of January to Mr. Blair. If they should express their assent to this condition in writing, then Major Eckert was directed to give them safe conduct to Fort Monroe, where a person coming from the President would meet them. It being thought probable, from a report of their conversation with Lieutenant General Grant, that the Richmond party would, in the manner prescribed, accept the condition mentioned, the Secretary of State was charged by the President with the duty of representing this government in the expected informal conference. The Secretary arrived at Fort Monroe on the night of the 1st of February. Major Eckert met him on the morning of the 2d of February with the information that the persons who had come from Richmond had not accepted in writing the condition upon which he was allowed to give them conduct to Fort Monroe. The Major had given the same information by telegraph to the President at Washington. On receiving this information the President prepared a telegram directing the Secretary to return to Washington. The Secretary, without waiting for information from the President, but at this juncture Lieutenant General Grant telegraphed to the Secretary of War, as well as to the Secretary of State, that the party from Richmond had reconsidered and accepted the condition tendered through Major Eckert, and General Grant urgently advised the President to confer in person with the Richmond party. Under these circumstances the Secretary, by the President's direction, remained at Fort Monroe, and the President joined him there on the night of the 2d of February. The Richmond party was brought down the James river in a United States steam transport during the day, and the transport was anchored in Hampton Roads. On the morning of the 3d the President, attended by the Secretary of War, received Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell aboard the United States steam transport River Queen in Hampton Roads. The conference was altogether informal. There was no attendance of secretaries, clerks or other witnesses. Nothing was written or read. The conversation, although earnest and free, was calm and courteous and kind on both sides. The Richmond party approached the discussion rather indirectly, and at no time did they make categorical demands or tender formal stipulations or absolute refusals. Nevertheless, during the conference, which lasted four hours, the several points at issue between the government and the insurgents were distinctly raised and discussed fully, intelligently, and in an amicable spirit. What the next party would do in favor was a postponement of the question of separation, upon which the war is waged, and a mutual direction of the efforts of the government and the insurgents to secure a cessation of hostilities, and a mutual policy or scheme for a season, during which parties might be expected to subside and the armies be reduced, and trade and intercourse between the people of both sections be resumed. It was suggested by them that through such postponement we might now have immediate peace, with some not very certain prospect of an ultimate satisfactory adjustment of political relations between the government and the States, section or people, now engaged in conflict with it. The suggestion, though deliberately considered, was, nevertheless, regarded by the President as one of armistice or truce, and he announced that we can agree to no cessation or suspension of hostilities except on the basis of the abandonment of the insurgent forces and the restoration of the national authority throughout all the States in the Union. Collaterally, and in subordination to the proposition which was thus announced, the anti-slavery policy of the United States was reviewed in all its bearings, and the President announced that he must not be expected to depart from the positions he had heretofore assumed in his proclamation of emancipation and other documents, as these positions were reiterated in his annual message. It was further declared by the President, that the complete restoration of the national authority everywhere was an indispensable condition of any assent on our part to whatever form of peace might be proposed. The President asserted the other party, that while he must adhere to these positions he would be prepared, so far as power is lodged with the Executive, to exercise liberality. His power, however, is limited by the constitution, and when peace should be made, Congress must necessarily act in regard to appropriations of money and to the admission of representatives from the insurrectionary States.

The Richmond party were then informed that Congress had, on the 31st ult., adopted by a constitutional majority a joint resolution submitting to the several States the proposition to abolish slavery throughout the Union, and that there is every reason to expect that it will be accepted by three-fourths of the States, so as to become a part of the national organic law.

The conference came to an end by mutual acquiescence, without producing an agreement of views upon the several matters discussed, or any of them. Nevertheless, it is perhaps of some importance that we have been able to submit our opinions and views directly to prominent insurgents, and to hear them in answer in a courteous and not unfriendly manner.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Our Special Washington Despatch.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1865.

The expectation of the reception of the President's message in reference to the recent peace negotiations attracted a good attendance in the galleries of the House to-day. It was received about twenty minutes past one o'clock, and the House immediately postponed all other business to hear it read. During the reading there were occasional manifestations of applause, both on the floor and in the galleries, particularly at the points where the President speaks of common country, and expresses his determination to enter into no negotiations not based upon the idea of a united country. These were promptly suppressed by the speaker, and with these exceptions the reading was listened to in the most profound silence.

At its conclusion there was general applause and cries of "good, good." Mr. Brooks, of New York, alone attempted to stem the tide, and in an hour's speech argued the case on the side of the rebels, and favoring and urging the granting of an armistice. He was frequently interrupted by questions and remarks from other members, until he finally declined to yield any further. The feeling of the House and of nearly all present was so entirely in opposition to the sentiment and tone of his remarks that it was hard work on his part to keep up to the requirements of the part he had assumed. Hon. Thaddeus Stevens demolished him, in a speech of about ten minutes' length, so completely that he was generally felt that further discussion was useless. Mr. Brooks evidently appreciated the severity of the scoring which he received, of which a mere report of the language, without the expressive manner and force of gesticulation which characterizes Mr. Stevens' more serious oratorical demonstrations, gives but a faint idea.

It is evident, from careful consideration of the President's report, that the position